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## The Advocate, September 5, 1995

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# THE ADVOCATE

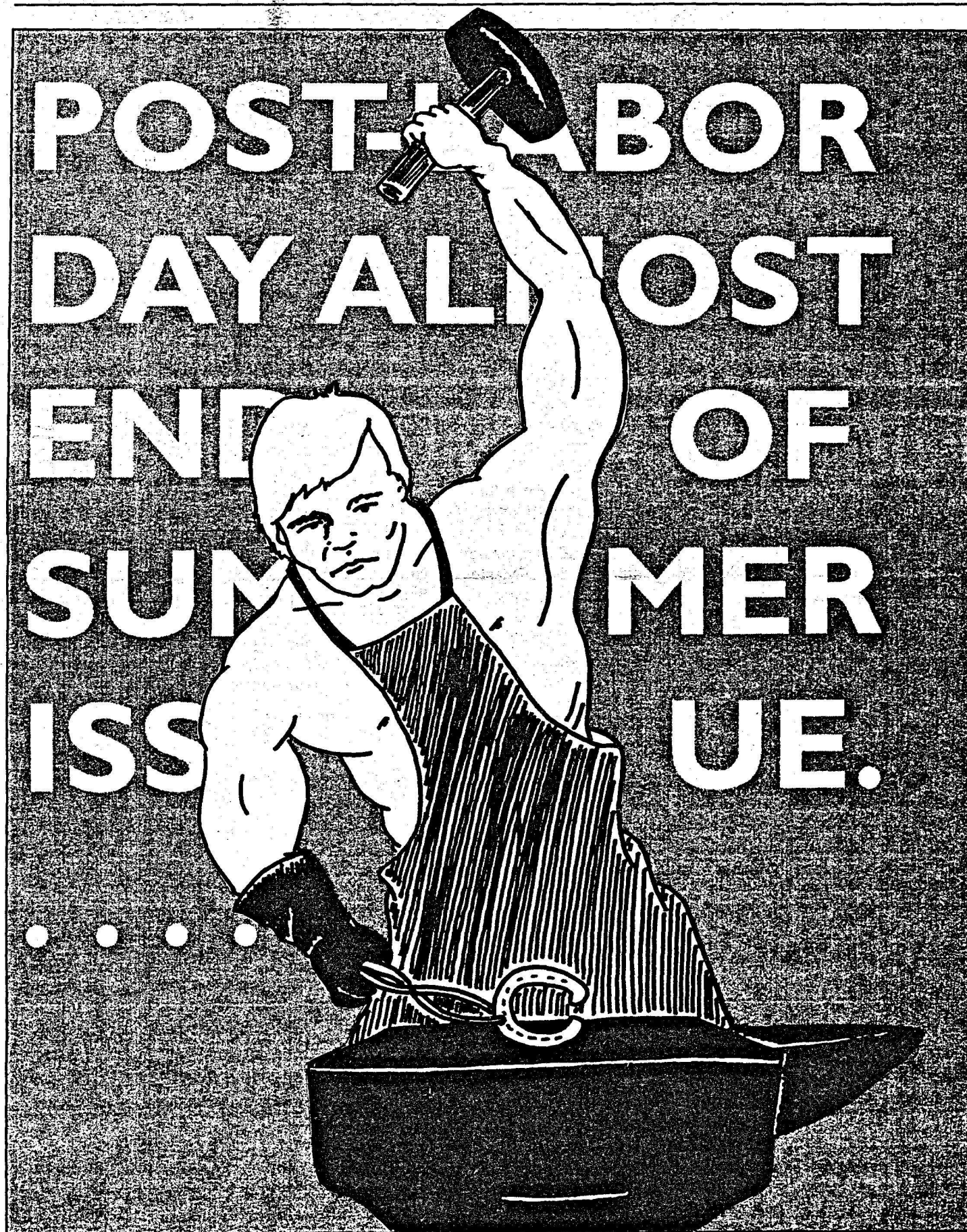


Inside This Issue:  
Congress right  
to cut loan  
subsidies page 2.

Vol. XXVII, No. 3

Student Newspaper of the George Washington University Law School

Tuesday, September 5, 1995



**Say Good-bye to the NLC, From Now On We Have a New Name. See story page 3.**

**Law  
School  
News . . .  
page 4**

**GW  
Celebrates  
175th . . .  
page 3**

**Let Hillary  
Go . . .  
page 2**

**Threlkeld's  
NFL  
Predictions:**

Rookie of the Year: Joey  
Galloway  
NFC MVP: Barry Sanders  
AFC MVP: Dan Marino  
NFL MVP: Dan Marino  
AFC Champion: Miami Dolphins  
NFC Champion: San Francisco  
49ers  
NFL Champion: San Francisco  
49ers  
For a more detailed account of  
the NFC, see NFL  
PREDICTIONS page 8.



## The Advocate Editorial Page

## Congress Is Right To Cut Loan Subsidies

Many of us will graduate from law school saddled with what seems like massive amounts of debt. A budget plan recently approved by the Republican-controlled Congress may increase the size of that debt.

As part of a seven-year budget plan designed to downsize the federal government and balance the budget by the year 2002, the Republican-dominated Congress recently proposed to cut \$10.1 billion from the Education Department over the next seven years. One proposed method for meeting this cut is to eliminate the in-school interest subsidy on Stafford loans. Another possibility is the elimination of the six-month post-graduation period for loan repayment. The details of the budget plan will be hashed out after Congress returns from its August recess.

Stafford loans are subsidized by taxpayers. The federal government pays most of the interest on the loans while students are in school. Students also get a six-month grace period before paying off their loans. If the Republican proposals become law, to pay the interest on they are in school. Students will have to add the interest they owe to the principal and pay it back later. Finally, students will have to start paying off their loans right after graduation. The end result is that the cost of a college education will increase for students with loans.

The increased cost of education has several possible effects. Students may be deterred from pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees, a deterrent which some suggest will fall especially hard on students from lower-income households. Students may also face a restricted set of opportunities for post-graduation jobs; many may be forced to forgo public interest careers or lower-paying jobs due to need to pay back their loans.

But let's face reality. Students financing their education with loans have already realized that they have to aim for higher paying jobs to pay off the loans. An few extra thousand dollars of debt won't make much difference in the career track decision.

One reason advanced in support of the Republican proposal is that college and graduate students will have a high earning capacity after they graduate. Therefore, students should bear the entire burden of paying the costs of their education, instead of being subsidized by taxpayers with less earning potential. This reasoning certainly applies to law students, who will enter one of the highest paying career fields in the country.

It is easy to complain about being in debt. It is certain that the proposed changes will be painful for many students. Eliminating loan subsidies will add to student woes, but the root cause of student woes is something over which Congress has no control. The fundamental problem for students is the way that tuition has skyrocketed in recent years, and this is a problem which will not be solved through legislation.

Proponents of the budget resolution note that loan subsidies, if left unchecked, will cost taxpayers \$12.4 billion over the next seven years. Who should foot the bill? Struggling middle income families, or the students who chose to incur the debt, who will graduate with degrees and the skills needed to enter high-paying professions, and who get the entire benefit of their educations? The bottom line is that those who reap the benefit should pay for the investment.

*Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The George Washington University National Law Center or The Advocate. Editorials represent the views of a majority of the Editorial Board. Opinion columns are reflective of the views of the column's author(s).*

 **House Editorial**

month grace period they must begin. If the Republican students will have their loans while they are in school interest they owe

## Let Hillary Go

By Michael Kaplan

In the coming weeks, Hillary Clinton will be on her way to China to lead the United States Delegation to the United Nation's International Conference on Women's Rights. There has been much debate on the irony and even the effectiveness of having a human rights conference in a country as backwards on women's issues as China. In fact, many prominent Americans (including several presidential hopefuls) have been protesting the First Lady's Attendance at such an event. They claim her presence is just another sign of appeasement from this country on the issue of China's human rights record. Then again, those espousing this opinion have never been champions of women's rights to begin with.

In attacking this ridiculous position, let us consider what might transpire if Hillary stayed home. Would the Chinese government crumble in the face of such firm American resolve? Would they throw open the prison gates at the thought that this conference, which they only wish would go away, will be discredited by the absence of the First Lady? Of course not. The Chinese would like nothing better than for Hillary to stay home. They want everybody to stay home!

The very idea of this conference axiomatically attacks the core of the Chinese political system. Hillary will be one of the

most effective speakers present. By depriving her of the opportunity to articulate her ideas, we would be doing what the Chinese would love to do, but cannot. We would gain nothing.

Change comes about through the exchange of ideas. In countries such as China, ideas usually have a tough time getting heard. They sneak in through pirate radio, television, and underground newspapers. It usually requires the risking of life and limb to publicize a philosophy of human equality. This conference will provide a forum for the kinds of ideas that led to the Tiananmen Square Massacre a few years back. This is not to suggest that the conference will throw open the prison gates, but it will get the word out. It will allow Chinese women, and women from all over the world, to see how much better off they should be. There will be discussion about family planning in a country where parents kill newborn baby girls. Many Chinese women, for the first time, will be introduced to the notion that they are entitled to equality. It will ignite a fire in some, and they will become the leaders of a social revolution that is bound to happen.

Hillary Clinton will do more for the cause of human rights and social justice as an active participant in the United Nations Conference than she will sitting home as an empty symbol of protest. Thank goodness she and her husband did not allow themselves to be intimidated by the empty political arguments of her opponents.

## Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of V-D Day

By Jay Ferguson

There is no such animal as customer service in D.C. I was reminded of this fact when I tried to get a letter from the Registrar's Office verifying my status as a student. I am constantly reminded of this fact whenever I shop at the Safeway, see a cabbie pass up a fare, go to a restaurant, or do anything not automated. Then it hit me: They think we have v-d. They do! They treat us as if we have a social disease. We are not the reason for their existence—we are the cause of their annoyance. We are to be shunned and hurried through—not so they can get onto the next person, but so they can be rid of us.

(Insert organization here) is a typical example. Their support staff is uncooperative, brassy, slow, inefficient, often rude, and frankly unapologetic. Unfortunately for us, we must deal with them to perform the simplest and least of tasks.

Take this real-life example. I asked the Registrar's Office why they did not

have a stack of form letters on hand for the annual parking rush. Does it not make sense that such foresight would save everyone some time? The response was, "Well, we have to look you up in the computer." Fine, I'm in there. This should take twenty seconds. "Well, it's not that simple." Ah, but it is that simple. You see, they did do the work. It could have taken two minutes to look me up and sign off on the proposed form letter. But they wanted me away from them because I have a social disease named customeritis.

(Insert organization here) should learn this important rule that we all learned when we bussed tables at our hometown tavern at age 16. It is far more costly to treat your customers poorly and lose them than it is to take the extra time needed to understand your customer and help them. For now, all we can do is come prepared and run through the hoops set up for us. But in the future, I will recommend that people not go to (insert organization here) because they are not oriented toward customer service.

## THE ADVOCATE

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The Advocate is published bi-weekly by the students of The George Washington University National Law Center. Its office is located in the basement at 2008 G Street, Washington D.C. N.W., 20052, (202) 676-3879.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of The George Washington University National Law Center or The Advocate. Editorials represent the views of a majority of the Editorial Board. Opinion columns are reflective of the views of the column's author(s). In articles, the source of information is identified, and an attempt is made to present a balanced view. In letters, the veracity of statements is strictly the responsibility of the author(s).

The Advocate will consider for publication all articles, letters, announcements, cartoons or opinion pieces submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before publication. All contributions must be submitted in WordPerfect, on a diskette, which will be returned approximately one week after publication. Letters should be no longer than 500 words and other submissions should be no longer than 1000 words. The Advocate strives to treat all submissions in a fair and uniform manner. However, due to space constraints, submissions may be omitted and The Advocate will make reasonable efforts to print them in a later issue. Its editorial policies are available for inspection by any person during normal business hours.

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## Fall Semester 1995\*

## Publication Schedule

August 21  
 September 5  
 September 18  
 October 2  
 October 16  
 October 30  
 November 13  
 November 20

\* Publication Schedule subject to change without notice.

# The End of the "NLC"

## Dean announces change in school name

By Nicole Ettinger  
 Features and Commentary Editor

The George Washington University National Law Center will now be known as simply "The George Washington University Law School." This announcement came from Dean Friedenthal last Thursday in a memorandum to the "Members of the Law School Community."

The decision to drop the name "National Law Center" and the acronym "NLC" is the result of informal discussions among the law school's Board of Advisors, faculty, and University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, according to Dean Friedenthal in an interview with The Advocate.

The Board of Advisors to the law school, which is composed of a group of prominent alumnae, originated the idea of dropping "The National Law Center" from the school's name. They unanimously concluded that the change would

serve the best interests of the law school. According to Friedenthal, the term "National Law Center" is "confusing at best, pretentious at worst." Those unfamiliar with the law school do not know whether a National Law Center is a school, research center, government-funded building, or other place of business.

After the Board of Advisors gave their opinion, Friedenthal surveyed the faculty last spring, who felt strongly in favor of dropping "NLC." He noted that the younger faculty voiced the strongest opinions in favor of the change. Once the faculty expressed approval, Friedenthal got Trachtenberg's permission. Both felt that the best name for the law school is "The George Washington University Law School," which is much shorter and simpler than the current name.

The term "National Law Center" originated in the early 1950s, according to Friedenthal. The law school was originally divided into two schools, a

J.D. school and a graduate law school, each run by a different dean. When the two schools were merged, the new dean added the name "National Law Center." There are no other historical reasons for the name, so current Dean Friedenthal felt no pressing historical need to keep the name.

The phase-out will be gradual, as Friedenthal does not want the school to expend unnecessary money and effort to make a sudden change. Instead, Friedenthal asks in his memorandum that people simply "discontinue the use of the term 'National Law Center.'"

The school will not take any formal steps to change letterhead or business cards right away. Rather, the school will continue to use its current materials, and change the name as it orders new supplies. Friedenthal indicated that it may be a few years before the phase-out process is complete. However, next year's diplomas will contain no reference to the National Law Center.

Friedenthal has so far received no negative comments about the situation, and does not expect a controversy to result from the change.

# GW Celebrates 175th Anniversary

By Ari Kaplan  
 Special to The Advocate

The George Washington University will not officially be 175 years old until February 9, 1996, but it has already started celebrating. The celebration began with an opening convocation Monday August 28, 1995, and will continue with special events throughout the year.

According to anniversary director, Christopher Speron, "Many people are unaware of the rich history this University has." GWU is using this commemoration to publicize and honor that heritage. Speron sees the celebration as "a great opportunity to feel good about the University and to celebrate our strengths."

Aside from gala events like this week's convocation on the quad, there are a number of cultural functions planned for the Fall and Spring terms. There will be photo exhibits at the Dimock Gallery, concerts at Lisner Auditorium, and special festivities during parents' weekend.

The money for all of this is coming out of existing budgets. It is "designed to be cost-neutral," says Speron. For example, the University is writing a book on its history that will pay for itself with sales to the public.

Celebration support is also coming from major companies like Pepsi and Bell Atlantic. Pepsi has designed commemorative anniversary for distribution campuswide. Bell Atlantic has featured GWU on the cover of all 1.8 million copies of the DC white pages.

The response so far has been very positive. The celebratory boat trip to Mount Vernon, Virginia was sold out, and a larger number of people than expected showed up for the opening ceremonies.

The administration is inviting any-

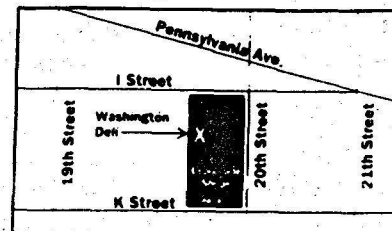
one who wants to be a part of the festivities to participate. Speron wants it to be "everyone's celebration."

More information is available on World Wide Web Home page: <http://www.gwu.edu/~gw175> or call the 175th Anniversary office at (202) 994-0175.

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## LAW SCHOOL NEWS

## Government Contracts Journal: Offers New Opportunities At No Cost to Law School

By Sal Siino  
Special to *The Advocate*

"It is a win-win situation for the school," says Professor Frederick Lees about the National Law Center's newest journal, the *Public Contract Law Journal*. Students will soon start working alongside leading contract attorneys as editors of the journal, and the American Bar Association is footing the bill.

The goal of the journal, currently published by the ABA's public contract law section as a service to its members, is to benefit lawyers and lay persons involved in the practice of public contract and grant law at the local, state, federal and international levels. It regularly publishes articles that present scholarly analyses and insight into issue af-

fecting the broad scope of public contract and grant law. It is the only journal devoted exclusively to public contract law.

The ABA will fund the journal and will be responsible for its publishing and marketing. In addition, the ABA will provide the NLC with startup money for computers and other costs.

Faculty advisors, Professors Lees, Miller and Schwartz, are currently in the process of hand-picking the board of student editors. The board will consist of 2L's, 3L's and graduate student in the government contracts program. Approximately 75 students submitted application materials, which consisted of a personal statement, a resume, a transcript and a writing sample before the August 29, 1995 deadline. Lees expects the board

to be named by September 15, 1995. Future board members will be determined through the annual Spring journal writing competition.

The board of student editors will parallel the editing, writing and cite-checking roles of the board of attorney editors. Professor Lees feels that this parallel board system should provide the students a unique opportunity to work alongside the nation's leading government contract attorneys. It is also designed to foster a mentor system.

In addition, students will get the opportunity to write notes and book reviews. The Spring 1996 special issue is the first that will feature NLC student contributions. It will focus on state and local procurement law.

## News from the Student Affairs Office

By Frank D. Durand  
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

On behalf of the gang in the Student Affairs Office (Dean Robinson, P.J., Felecia, Ronald, and yours truly), I bid you a hearty welcome to The National Law Center, 1995-1996. We hope that the year has gotten off to a good start for you all.

The primary purpose of this hopefully regular *Advocate* column is to communicate information from the Student Affairs Office to the student body at large. The secondary purpose of this column is to allow me to publicly trumpet the success or bemoan the failure of my favorite sports teams, whose identities will become apparent soon enough. With that stated, let me proceed to today's news:

**Item 1:** Second-, third-, and fourth-year students, as well as LL.M. students, should keep in mind that Friday, September 8, 1995, is the deadline for changing your grading option in an elective course, i.e. the deadline for choosing to take a normally graded elective course on a credit/no credit basis. Please note that courses required after the first year, specifically Professional Responsibility and Property (for those students in section 15 during their first year), must be taken for a letter grade.

**Item 2:** All new transfer and visiting students are invited to a reception on Thursday, September 14, 1995 in room B406. In addition to providing you an opportunity to meet deans, faculty, and one another, there will be lots of good eats. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Item 3:** Now that you all have a mail slot on the first floor (if you don't, please let us know in S104), it seems a good time to inform/remind you all that said mail slots are intended for law school and university community members to communicate with you. The distribution of commercial advertisements through the mail slots is not permitted.

**Item 4:** Since we receive daily inquiries on the subject, let me remind you all that the new SBA office is located

in room S302A and the new Moot Court Board Office is located in room B514.

**Item 5:** As a reminder to returning students and for the information of new students, the Student Affairs Office is open 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday while Fall and Spring classes are in session. Please drop in on us if you have questions or concerns or you would just like to talk something over.

For now, that is all.

## Student Intellectual Property Law Association (SIPLA) News

By Yvonne Abbott  
SIPLA

The Student Intellectual Property Law Association (SIPLA) will be presenting several events this year, including networking and career oriented activities, speeches from intellectual property specialists, Federal Circuit judges, a Patent Bar review course, and a career fair.

First year students interested in learning more about this area of law are especially encouraged to join. Membership is essential in order to take part in SIPLA's September and October activities.

September 11, 1995 is the deadline for 2L, 3L and 4L members to submit their resumes for the Resume Digest. First year students have until the end of the semester. The Resume Digest is a

compilation of resumes mailed to over 80 law firms seeking to hire in the intellectual property area. Since George Washington offers the No. 1 ranked program in intellectual property law, many firms look to the National Law Center and specifically SIPLA for the best and the brightest in the field.

The SIPLA Career Fair will be held September 19 and 26. Various firms, agencies and company representatives will discuss opportunities for employment. Come with resume in hand, ready to network.

Membership applications are available from Yvonne Abbott (2LN). The cost to join is \$10 (make checks payable to SIPLA). SIPLA is also seeking 1L representatives. Contact David Abraham (3LN) for more information.

## Hispanic Law Association (HSLA) News

By Yasmin Tirado  
HSLA

The George Washington University National Law Center's Hispanic Law Association (HLSA) would like to welcome all new students. Our new officers are:

Rhonda Hernández (3L), President

Niza Motola (2L), Vice President

Arlene Carrera (2L), Treasurer

Emilia Castro (2L), Secretary

Natalie Rodríguez (2L), Minority Affairs Coordinator

Gilberto Charriez (2L), Educational Chair (Mentor Program)

John Rawizz (2L), Career Coordinator

Carmita Alonso (3L), Social Chair

HLSA has a full calendar for the new semester filled with activities such as an Enrichment Series, Mentoring Program, and a Roundtable with the Hispanic associations from other area law schools. Additional upcoming activities include:

\*September 5: General meeting and welcome to new members. pizza and soft drinks will be served. Time and place will be posted.

\*September 14: Bake sale. First floor launch. Time will be posted.

\*October: National Hispanic Heritage Month. HLSA will sponsor a Kegs-on-the-Quad party with a latino band. Time and date will be posted.

\*October 12-15: 1995 Hispanic National Bar Association's Convention, to be celebrated in Dorado, Puerto Rico. HLSA will kick-off its Alumni Association at this convention.

We encourage all new students to attend the general meeting on September 5 to discover what HLSA is about and to take advantage of the mentorship program and social activities. For more information, please leave a message in any of the officer's mailboxes. We hope to see you all at the general meeting!



# SBA News: Tuition Retention Plan Approved by GW President

By Alberto Rivera-Fournier  
Special to *The Advocate*

In its first meeting of the year, the Student Bar Association announced approval of a tuition retention plan that Dean Jack Friedenthal advanced and supported, over an original plan preferred by University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg. The revised plan, later approved by President Trachtenberg and put into effect as of July 1, 1995, will bring the percentage of NLC tuition retained by the University down from the current 40% to 25% by the year 2003. It will significantly raise the operating budget of the NLC during the next eight years, and establish an endowment fund for the long-term financial benefit of the school.

SBA President Kim Anglin praised Dean Friedenthal's support of a plan that finally addresses the problems of high tuition retention by the University and insufficient resources at the National Law Center. "Dean Friedenthal stood up for the students of the NLC," said Anglin.

In an interview with *The Advocate*, Dean Friedenthal outlined the rocky road to the adoption of the revised plan. The American Bar Association Accredita-

tion Committee had set a deadline of April 1, 1995 for the University to come up with a plan that would resolve the problem of the unusually high retention of NLC tuition. President Trachtenberg originally submitted a plan to the Accreditation Committee which focused on the establishment of an endowment fund worth \$4 million to which the University would contribute \$500,000 in its first year, \$1 million the second year, and further increments based on the \$500,000 base until the year 2003. Five percent of the endowment's total interest income would go towards the operating budget of the NLC.

The NLC administration reviewed the plan and decided that, while the endowment would be a considerable asset in 30 years, the school needed to address the present concerns of the students and implement new programs for the benefit of the school as a whole. As a result, the NLC administration offered a revised plan that would include the establishment of a \$4 million endowment by the University, as offered by President Trachtenberg in his original plan. However, instead of feeding the endowment over the next eight years, the

administration thought that the annual increments from the base figure of \$500,000 until the year 2003 would do more good if they were added to the operating budget of the National Law Center. In addition, the revised plan stipulated that any tuition increase in the coming years would be retained by the NLC. This revised plan was also submitted to the Accreditation Committee days before the actual meeting on the topic took place.

At the April meeting of the Accreditation Committee in Indianapolis, President Trachtenberg presented both plans but urged adoption of his original plan. In a surprising and somewhat awkward turn, the Committee asked Dean Friedenthal what his preference was. Friedenthal stated his preference for the revised plan in front of his boss.

"Although President Trachtenberg's plan would have been an asset to the NLC and future students down the road, I thought that more funds were needed in the short run to address the present concerns of students and to implement new programs for the benefit of the school as a whole. I think the revised plan is a generous and fair plan to get us to a

reasonable position in a short amount of time," said Dean Friedenthal, obviously delighted that President Trachtenberg approved his plan in front of the Accreditation Committee.

The NLC administration estimates that, under the revised plan, the University's tuition retention rate would drop under 30 percent of NLC tuition revenue by 1998, and that by 2003 the ratio would land at a 75/25 split. In addition, Dean Friedenthal noted that the revised plan "helped keep NLC's tuition increase for the present year to 3%, the lowest in the nation."

## STUDENT LOANS COULD GET MORE EXPENSIVE

In other SBA news, ABA Law Student Division Representative Alan Freeman reported that a Congressional budget resolution which seeks to reduce the deficit by nearly \$960 billion by fiscal year 2002 includes an agreement to cut student aid programs over the next seven years by \$10 billion dollars. If approved, the proposed cuts in student aid would hit graduate and professional school students specially hard. Specifically, the resolution seeks to eliminate the in-school interest exemption for graduate and professional students which allows those who receive Stafford loans to have the interest on these loans assumed by the government while they are enrolled in school. In addition, the resolution also targets for elimination the 6-month grace period that students have after graduation to start repayment of their loans.

According to the American Council on Education, the elimination of the interest exemption provided to students currently in school could result in the increase of educational debt by as much as \$44,000 for a graduate student who borrows the maximum amount of federal loans. This would translate into an increase of monthly payments of about \$400 per student borrower.

"This resolution is currently being examined by the authorization and appropriations committees of both the House and the Senate. It is extremely important that all students contact their local representatives and state Senators to oppose these cuts in educational opportunities," said Freeman, who is organizing a national lobbying campaign to defeat the cuts in student aid.

Finally, the Academic Affairs committee reported that at its last meeting held at the end of April, the faculty approved major changes proposed by the Legal Research and Writing Subcommittee to the Legal Research and Writing program. Among the changes to be noticed: no more than twelve students will be assigned to each section and more adjunct professors will be hired to teach smaller sections.

## Notes from the Equal Justice Foundation

By Rachel Dickon  
EJF

The following students were awarded summer grants by the Equal Justice Foundation for their work during the summer of 1995: Lara Bakshi, Office of the Public Defender, San Francisco, CA; Marla Garrett, Public Defender Service, Juvenile Services Program, Washington, D.C.; Cathy Harris, Government Accountability Project, Washington, D.C.; Eric Most, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II, New York, NY; Tom Rosen, Ohio Legal Services Association, Columbus, OH; Robin Runge, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

The NAPIL National Public Interest Career Fair will be held at American University on October 20, 1995. Many public interest employers will hold interviews for second and third year students. Resumes are due to interviewing employers by September 28. First year students may attend panel sessions and Table Talk. For more information, pick up an information packet in the CDO Resource Library.

Coinciding with the NAPIL Fair, EJF will sponsor Public Interest Week in October. The week will start on October 14 with a community service project.

During the week of October 16-20 various panels and speakers will address students. Please plan to join us!

Monday, October 2, the Alliance for Justice will sponsor a satellite teleconference on public interest law. Speakers will include Ralph Nader and Eleanor Holmes Norton, among others. American University will sponsor the conference and will present panel discussions on public interest to coincide with the

teleconference.

EJF Committee Chairpersons for 1995-96 are: Sharri Horowitz, 3L, EJF Co-Chair; Robin Runge, 2L, EJF Co-Chair; Dawn Friedkin, 2L, Treasurer; Rachel Dickon, 2L, Publicist; Russ Jacobs, 2L, Inreach Coordinator; Monica Rathke, 3L, Community Outreach; Deb Vitek, 2L, CDO/NAPIL Liaison. Please feel free to contact any of us for more information on EJF activities.

## The Advocate Seeks Business Manager

*The Advocate* needs someone to fill the rewarding position of Business Manager on its editorial board.

The Business Manager is responsible for recruiting businesses to advertise in *The Advocate* and for collecting advertising revenue. The Business Manager also creates and designs advertisements. The Business Manager receives a commission out of the ad revenue which he or she generates.

No experience is required, and the

position is open to all NLC students.

Interested NLC students should please apply by submitting a brief statement including your name, phone number, and a brief paragraph explaining why you are perfect for the job to *The Advocate's* box in the Records Office. THE DEADLINE IS 5 P.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8. The Editorial Board will elect its new member early the following week.



# Confessions of a Techno-Bigot

By Douglas Luftman  
Student Chair, GW Law School Computer  
Services Committee

I admit it. I am a techno-bigot. I would gladly choose an unfeeling, cold machine that has all the on-line information I could handle at my fingertips, over volumes upon volumes of printed resources that merely give a person warm and fuzzy feelings.

Law and technology, in my view, have become opposites. Sure, we have technology all around us. But, step back from all of it and ask, "How do we use computers?" If you say as merely a word processor, you are not alone.

One incident has led me to a very cynical view of the under-utilization of technology law. I had the pleasure of working at a very large law firm and was impressed at the \$9 million spent on high tech devices surrounding the attorneys. Every day I heard that someone wanted a more powerful computer or a CD-ROM reader for his computer. Technology seemed unable to keep up with this law firm's apparent accelerated demand for state-of-the-art equipment.

Like the child who learns for the

first time that the World Wrestling Federation matches are staged (sorry to all of you who I reminded of this trauma), I was crushed by what I saw next at this firm. I discovered that the lawyers requesting the more powerful computers were practicing the philosophy that he

## Commentary

who has the best view from his office must also have the most powerful computer for a fancy paper weight. The person who got the CD-ROM reader could be seen in his office leaning back in his large leather chair, headphones connected to his fancy paper weight, enjoying the relaxing sounds of his favorite classical CD.

Technology existed at this firm, but why? The same question should be asked of every law school in the United States. Is the academic investment in technology intended to ensure that graduating students are able to lead the technological revolution in the law firms of the

future, or is the technology being used as a means of appearing technologically advanced to merely impress the ones who do the law school rankings?

Law and technology are like oil and vinegar... like President Clinton and the health care industry... like... well, you get the point.

To counter this, we need to look at computer technology as something to master (and that doesn't mean writing computer programs). We should look beyond the simple view of technology. Services like the Internet can be seen as more than just a means of sending e-mail, or something that nerdy people use on weekends. The Internet is a resource where law students can join in-depth electronic discussion groups about the law, access huge legal databases (like Lexis and Westlaw, but different), and access the "web pages" of many law firms for detailed information about them. It is all at our fingertips and free.

Technology is very available to us if we make the initial effort to utilize its devices. What we have to do from this day forward is for all of us to make a

commitment (I can almost hear the anthemic music starting in the background) to learn more about the available technology and how we can take advantage of it in our legal pursuits.

State-of-the-art computers have been installed in the computer lab. Internet access will be available within approximately a week, and Windows has landed at the NLC.

Once in the real world, we will need to ask ourselves what differentiates us from others? Will it be our traditional legal education, our fundamental understanding or interests in the law, our drive to succeed or make money, or something much larger, the ability to utilize technology to enhance our personal strengths and to improve our inherent weaknesses?

While other attorneys try to figure out how to use a computer as more than a fancy paper weight, those who made an effort in law school to learn about technology in the law, will be able to use these devices to blaze past their colleagues.

Maximizing the computer's potential is a very powerful tool in any profession. The question here is: "Now that you are being given the chance to use great technology, are you willing to take advantage of master its opportunities?"

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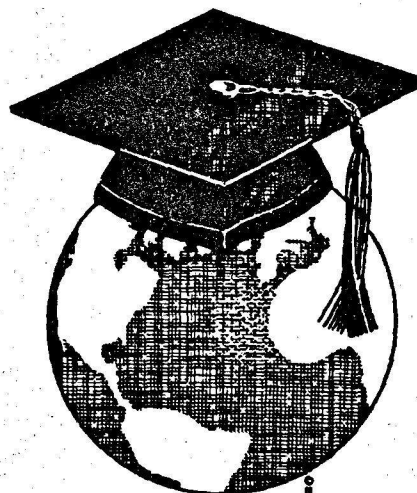
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## Sports and Entertainment

# NFL NFC Predictions

By Thomas S. Threlkeld  
Sports and Entertainment Editor

This is a momentous season in the National Football League. There are two new expansion teams and two other teams have pulled up their stakes and headed for allegedly greener pastures. There are several teams that may be ready to challenge the 49ers-Cowboys duopoly. Thank God for that: the games were good, but the act is getting a little old. Sports fans want a little mystery and this year they might just get some.

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

### NFC EAST

The *Dallas Cowboys* have got what it takes to make another strong run at the Super Bowl, but they better get it done this year because it ain't gonna happen next year, cowpokes. Troy Aikman (QB), Emmitt Smith (RB), and Michael Irvin (WR) are still great and are the heart and soul of this team. But, the loss of Alvin Harper (WR), Mark Stepnoski (C), and James Washington (S) are tough to take, and the Cowboys are certainly not as good as they were last year. They have no depth anywhere except on the defensive line, which is the best in the NFL. However, owner Jerry Jones vastly overpaid for ordinary lineman Tony Tolbert, who now earns as much as Irvin. Yikes!

The Cowboys had their second straight bad draft. Sherman Williams (RB) is the insurance policy for Emmitt, but when you are chasing the 'Niners, you better come up with something better than an insurance policy in the draft. I mean, for the Cowboys to be successful, their top pick, Williams, better not play very much. Next year, defensive stars Charles Haley, Leon Lett, Kevin Smith, and Darren Woodson are all free agents. They cannot sign them all and the Cowboys dynasty will end. This is their last year to do it. Aikman, Smith, and Irvin will get them there if anyone can. Record: 11-5.

The *Arizona Cardinals* will still have a devastating defense this year and their offense will greatly improve. Dave Kreig (QB), Rob Moore and Frank Sanders (WRs), and a healthy Garrison Hearst will probably double last year's point total. Kreig must stay healthy though.

Defensively, the Cardinals are led by DT Eric Swann, as good as anyone in the game, and Seth Joyner (LB), who was voted to his third straight Pro Bowl last year. Michael Bankston (DL) and Eric Hill (LB) also provide reliable tackling and punishing hitting. Head Coach Buddy Ryan should get the Cardinals to the playoffs this year if Kreig stays healthy. Record: 10-6.

The *New York Giants* will take third place in the East because no one else is good enough to do it. Dave Brown was the 13th-ranked QB in the NFC last year—not good. The wideouts are speedy but average, and Howard Crodd continues to be average at tight end. What the Giants do

have is running backs. Rodney Hampton is not the player he once was, but at least he'll carry the ball every time you give it to him. Hershel Walker is one of the most versatile players in the league and will more than make up for the loss of Megget. Rookie Tyrone Wheatley was a great pick and will carry the ball for this team into the next millennium. However, opposing defenses will key on the runners and challenge Brown to beat them.

The defense fell off dramatically last year, and DLs Mike Fox and Erik Howard left as free agents in the offseason. Mike Croel (LB) is a talented player and Michael Brooks (LB) will make all the plays. Record: 9-7.

Randall Cunningham must pick up the new West Coast offense Head Coach Ray Rhodes has installed or the *Philadelphia Eagles* will be dead before they hit the ground. The running backs are swift and talented with Rickey Watters and Charlie Garner, but there is no big banger. Garner has a bad history of injuries. The wideouts, Calvin Williams and Fred Barnett are super. The defense, however, will be very bad. Randall better know what he's doing. Record: 6-10.

My *Washington Redskins* have improved their running game with Terry Allen and by the end of the year, the ageless Henry Ellard and Michael Westbrook will be one of the best wideout tandems in the NFL. Westbrook is going to be the best. Despite worries, quarterback Heath Shuler is very talented and will prove it over the course of the year. However, the defensive line will be the worst in the league. The linebackers are very good, with sackmaster Ken Harvey and runstoppers Rod Stevens and Marcus Patton. With Darrell Green and Tom Carter on the corners, and Stanley Richard and James Washington at the safety spots, the Skins have the best defensive backfield in the NFL. However, the general inexperience of the team and the utter lack of a pass rush from the front four will doom the team this year. The Skins are going in the right direction, but there are still too many holes and not enough depth. Record: 5-11.

### NFC CENTRAL

The *Detroit Lions* will win this division because Scott Mitchell (QB) will prove he belongs in the NFL. Receivers are good, led by the magnificent Herman Moore and his supporting cast of Brett Perriman and Johnnie Morton. But the story in Detroit is always Barry Sanders, without a doubt, the best running back in the league (1883 yards and 5.7 yards per carry last year). This offense is clearly the best in the Central Division, and that will put them over the top. The defense is ordinary, except for Chris Spielman and Benny Blades. Record 10-6.

The *Chicago Bears* will probably make the playoffs this year due to Dave Wannstedt, the best young head coach in the league. The defense has no real stars after Mark Carrier (CB), but Wannstedt will get more than he should from them. Offensively, the Bears need a big year from Erik Kramer (QB) and rookie Rahsaan Salaam (RB). The wideouts will be better this year with the addition of Michael Timpson. Record: 9-7.

The *Green Bay Packers* will tumble this year due to the devastating loss of wideout Sterling Sharpe to injury. Sharpe caught 18 touchdowns last year, more than half of all those thrown by quarterback Brett Favre. That cannot be replaced. The running backs are still ordinary (what else is new), and with Keith Jackson still not showing up, the Pack has no real tight end either. Favre is a fine young passer, but without his security blanket

(Sharpe), watch for him to force things this year and throw more interceptions. The Packers' saving grace will be their defense. The loss of Bryce Paup hurts and Reggie White's performance deteriorated at the end of last year, but White and Sean Jones (DE) are still two of the best around. Leroy Butler and George Teague comprise the best safety tandem in the league. Record: 8-8.

The *Minnesota Vikings* have a shot with Cris Carter and Jake Reed. Warren Moon, however, is finally starting to show his age. He threw too many interceptions last year. His arm is clearly tired. The Vikes need to run the ball, but they gave away their best runner, Terry Allen. The loss of Henry Thomas (DT) is crippling and a rebuilt defensive backfield will be scorched all year. Record 7-9.

The *Tampa Bay Buccaneers* are looking up, but their defensive line is still lousy, and Trent Dilfer (QB) is untested. Eric Rhett (RB) is a comer, and the receivers, led by Alvin Harper, should be good. But, this team needs one more good draft and a year of seasoning. Record: 6-10.

### NFC WEST

The *San Francisco 49ers* have already mathematically won this division. Steve Young is the best QB in the league and the receivers are also the best. The offensive line is one of the best and few teams are better coached. The running game is a major worry because William Floyd is hurt and Ricky Watters is gone. The defense will be strong again, particularly the fine defensive tackles, Dana Stubblefield and Bryant Young. Linebackers Ken Norton, Gary Plummer, and Lee Woodall are terrific. They need Deion Sanders though. Record: 13-3.

Even without Andre Rison, the *Atlanta Falcons* will score points this year. Terrence Mathis and J.J. Birden will catch passes from Jeff George, who has found his place in the sun. The running game will be diverse: Craig Heyward will batter defenses down and Eric Metcalf will run around opponents. Metcalf will also catch at least 60 passes this year. The Falcons will need to score a lot because their defense is awful. Record: 8-8.

Quarterback Jim Everett proved he still has life when he racked up eye-popping stats with the *New Orleans Saints* last year. He'll do the same thing this year, but the running game is a big mystery. Torrance Small, Michael Haynes and Quinn Early give the Saints one of the best receiving corps in the league. The defense will be lousy though. Morten Andersen, one of the best kickers of all time, is in Atlanta. That is a loss. Record: 7-9.

I'm picking the *St. Louis Rams* to finish ahead of the expansion team *Carolina Panthers*, but that is just because I am giving them the benefit of the doubt. Jerome Bettis (RB) had an awful preseason after a disappointing 1994. The wideouts are nothing to write home about. The defensive line, with Sean Gilbert, Robert Young, Jimmie Jones, and rookie Kevin Carter, will be superb, but the linebackers are worse than the receivers. QB Chris Miller will get hurt again, and his backup is Mark Rypien. Uh-oh. Record: 5-11.

The best teams in the NFL are the San Francisco 49ers, the Dallas Cowboys, and the Miami Dolphins. All three teams are finalists in the Deion Sanders contest. The winner of the Sanders Sweepstakes will win it all.

## Next Issue: AFC predictions.